



## **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE**

a Division of South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

### **Office of State Fire Marshal**

141 Monticello Trail • Columbia, SC 29203

(803) 896-9800

[www.statefire.llr.sc.gov](http://www.statefire.llr.sc.gov)

#### **For Immediate Release:**

Contact: Amy Williamson, Public Information Officer  
(803) 429-4201

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### **SC STATE FIRE MARSHAL URGES SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR SAFELY**

As South Carolinians prepare to welcome the New Year, SC State Fire Marshal Jonathan Jones reminds residents to make safety a priority when using fireworks. Each year, fireworks contribute to preventable injuries and fires, many of which occur during New Year's Eve celebrations.

"New Year's Eve is a time of excitement and reflection, and fireworks are a longstanding tradition for many families," said SC State Fire Marshal Jonathan Jones. "But even small fireworks can cause significant injury or property damage when used unsafely. Taking just a few simple precautions can ensure you start the new year safely."

Residents choosing to use consumer fireworks at home are encouraged to follow these safety tips:

- Observe local laws and check with local officials if unsure what is permitted in your area.
- Be mindful of weather considerations: windy or dry winter conditions can increase the risk of fire.
- Buy from permitted fireworks retailers and store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Always have a responsible adult present when lighting fireworks.
- Read and follow all instructions on each device.
- Only use fireworks outdoors and away from homes, vehicles, dry brush, and trees.
- Keep people and pets at a safe distance before lighting fireworks.
- Dispose of spent fireworks properly by placing them in a bucket of water.

Never:

- Point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.
- Give fireworks to small children.
- Carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Place any part of your body over a device when lighting the fuse.

"While many families enjoy celebrating at home, one of the safest ways to enjoy fireworks remains attending a permitted professional show," added Jones. "These displays are conducted by licensed operators who put on spectacular shows, while focusing on the safety of spectators."

South Carolina law prohibits the sale of fireworks to anyone under 16.

For more information on fireworks safety, [CLICK HERE](#).

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*SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's SC State Fire Division provides essential services in fire prevention, training, emergency response, and community risk reduction.*



*Our mission is to be the focal point for service and support to save lives and property.*